82. An electronic sourcing system as recited in claim 79, wherein said catalog selection protocol includes providing an electronic listing of available catalogs from said collection of catalogs.

83. An electronic sourcing system as recited in claim 82, wherein said electronic listing of available catalogs is less than said collection of catalogs.

84. An electronic sourcing system as recited in claim 79, wherein said catalog selection protocol includes matching a vendor identification code with a subset of said collection of catalogs.

85. An electronic sourcing system as recited in claim 84, wherein said subset of catalogs includes both a vendor catalog from a predetermined vendor and a second catalog from a predetermined third party.

86. An electronic sourcing system as recited in claim 85, wherein said predetermined third party is one of a manufacturer and a competing vendor.

87. An electronic sourcing system as recited in claim 86, wherein said manufacturer makes items in said vendor catalog.

88. An electronic sourcing system as recited in claim 86, wherein said competing vendor sells items corresponding to items in said vendor catalog.

89. An electronic sourcing system as recited in claim 85, further including a cross reference table linking a vendor item catalog number from said vendor catalog with an item catalog number from said predetermined third party.

90. An electronic sourcing system as recited in claim 79, wherein said second set of predetermined criteria includes at least one of a catalog number and item textual information.

91. An electronic sourcing system comprising:

a collection of catalogs of items stored in an electronic format;

a first identification code associated with a first item in a first catalog;

a second identification code associated with a second item in a second catalog, said first item and said second item being generally equivalent, and wherein a selection of one identification code from one of said first and second catalogs provides the other identification code from the other of said catalogs.

10 92. An electronic sourcing system as recited in claim 9 91, wherein said first identification code is identical to said second identification code.

11 93. An electronic sourcing system as recited in claim 9 91, wherein at least of one of said first and second catalogs includes said first and second identification codes.

12 94. An electronic sourcing system as recited in claim 9 91, wherein said selection includes a comparison of said one of said first and second identification codes with a cross-reference table listing both of said identification codes as being generally equivalent.

13 95. An electronic sourcing system as recited in claim 9 91, wherein a user selects one of said first and second identification codes, lacks access to said catalog corresponding to said selected identification code, but is given access to the other said catalog corresponding to said non-selected identification code.

14 96. An electronic sourcing system as recited in claim 9 91, wherein a user selects one of said first and second identification codes, and has access to both said first and second catalogs.

15 97. An electronic sourcing system as recited in claim 9 91, wherein said first and second identification codes correspond to a part number.

16 98. An electronic sourcing system comprising:

at least two product catalogs containing data relating to items such that an item in a first catalog is generally equivalent with an item in a second catalog; and

converting means for converting data relating to said item from said first catalog to data relating to said item from said second catalog.

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99. An electronic sourcing system as recited in claim 98, wherein said first catalog may be searched separately from said second catalog.

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100. An electronic sourcing system as recited in claim 99, wherein a user lacks access to said first catalog and has access to said second catalog, such that a request for an item in said first catalog provides said data from said second catalog.

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101. An electronic sourcing system as recited in claim 98, wherein at least one catalog database contains said data from each of said catalogs, and said converting means includes a non-catalog database containing a cross-reference table such that use of a reference code corresponding to an entry in said cross-reference table links said item from said first catalog to data relating to said item from said second catalog.

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102. An electronic sourcing system as recited in claim 98, wherein one or more catalog databases contain said data from each of said catalogs, and said converting means including one or more catalog databases including an identical reference code corresponding to said data from said first catalog and said data from said second catalog.

103. An electronic sourcing system comprising:

a collection of catalogs of items stored in an electronic format;

a single requisition representing a list of items selected from more than one catalog; and

multiple purchase orders, each of said purchase orders representing a subset from said list of items.

104. An electronic sourcing system as recited in claim 103, further including a purchase order generation protocol used to separate said list of items into said multiple purchase orders.

105. An electronic sourcing system as recited in claim 104, wherein said requisition includes data corresponding to each of said items in said list, said purchase order generation protocol comparing said data to at least one predetermined rule to generate said multiple purchase orders.

106. An electronic sourcing system as recited in claim 105, wherein said purchase order generation protocol includes an item source identifier such that a single purchase order corresponds to a single shipment from a single source.

107. An electronic sourcing system as recited in claim 106, wherein said single shipment includes items selected from more than one of said catalogs.

108. An electronic sourcing system as recited in claim 106, said purchase order generation protocol further including an item availability determination corresponding to at least one of a manufacturer and a distributor and generating a single purchase order based on availability of said item.

109. An electronic sourcing system as recited in claim 108, wherein if said item is available from said manufacturer and not said distributor, said single purchase order is generated on behalf of one of a customer making a request for said item and said distributor on behalf of said customer.

110. An electronic sourcing system comprising:

a requisition module including data fields, user-generated criteria entered into at least one of said data fields to generate at least partial criteria corresponding to a desired item;

a catalog collection searching module, said searching module including a collection of catalogs of items stored in an electronic format, a catalog selection criteria used to select less than said entire collection, said searching module being used to generate additional search-module criteria for said data fields of said requisition module; and

a multiple purchase order generation module, said purchase order generation module creating multiple purchase orders from a single requisition created with said user-generated criteria and said search-module criteria.

111. An electronic sourcing module as recited in claim 110, wherein each of at least two catalogs include a generally equivalent item from a different source, said requisition module working in combination with said catalog searching module to determine multiple sources for said item.

112. An electronic sourcing module as recited in claim 111, wherein said multiple sources is limited by said catalog searching module providing a match according to said user-generated criteria, said search-module criteria and a determination system that located items are generally equivalent.

113. An electronic sourcing system as recited in claim 112, wherein said determination system includes a cross reference table matching an identification code from a first located item with a second identification code from a second located item.

114. An electronic sourcing system as recited in claim 112, wherein said determination system includes an identical identification code for each of said located items.

115. An electronic sourcing module as recited in claim 111, wherein said requisition module uses at least one pre-determined rule to select which of multiple sources to use for said desired item.

116. An electronic sourcing system as recited in claim 115, wherein said pre-determined rule relies on item availability.

117. An electronic sourcing system as recited in claim 115, wherein said pre-determined rule relies on a hierarchy of preferred sources.

118. An electronic sourcing system as recited in claim 110, wherein less than said catalog selection criteria is determined by at least one of said user-generated criteria or user characteristics.

119. An electronic sourcing system as recited in claim 118, wherein said user characteristics include a listing of catalogs from which a user is allowed to purchase.

120. An electronic sourcing system, as recited in claim 110, wherein said requisition module generates a preferred requisition based on at least one of product availability and user preferences in accordance with a determination of multiple sources for a desired item.